

Measuring Recidivism in

Michigan:

National Benchmarks

Michigan Context and Limitations

Nationally, analyses of recidivism (that include Michigan prisoners) have used a long-standing benchmark of being arrested for a new crime/violation within 3 years.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is moving to a 5 year review standard as “The longer window provides supplementary information for policymakers and practitioners on the officially recognized criminal behavior of released prisoners.”

Source: BJS report “Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010”, April 2014 (updated December 2016), accessible at: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rprts05p0510.pdf>

The latest national study on recidivism, which included Michigan, reported:

HIGHLIGHTS

Among state prisoners released in 30 states in 2005—

- About two-thirds (67.8%) of released prisoners were arrested for a new crime within 3 years, and three-quarters (76.6%) were arrested within 5 years.
- Within 5 years of release, 82.1% of property offenders were arrested for a new crime, compared to 76.9% of drug offenders, 73.6% of public order offenders, and 71.3% of violent offenders.
- More than a third (36.8%) of all prisoners who were arrested within 5 years of release were arrested within the first 6 months after release, with more than half (56.7%) arrested by the end of the first year.

- Two in five (42.3%) released prisoners were either not arrested or arrested once in the 5 years after their release.

■ A sixth (16.1%) of released prisoners were responsible for almost half (48.4%) of the nearly 1.2 million arrests that occurred in the 5-year follow-up period.

- An estimated 10.9% of released prisoners were arrested in a state other than the one that released them during the 5-year follow-up period.
- Within 5 years of release, 84.1% of inmates who were age 24 or younger at release were arrested, compared to 78.6% of inmates ages 25 to 39 and 69.2% of those age 40 or older.

Source: BJS report "Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010" - <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rprts05p0510.pdf>

The BJS Report indicates that recidivism by Sex Offenders is Problematic

TABLE 8

Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005, by most serious commitment offense and time from release to first arrest

Most serious commitment offense	Cumulative percent of released prisoners arrested within—					
	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
All released prisoners	28.2%	43.4%	59.5%	67.8%	73.0%	76.6%
Violent	24.9%	38.4%	53.8%	61.6%	67.2%	71.3%
Homicide ^a	12.5	21.5	33.9	41.5	47.0	51.2
Murder	10.1	18.8	30.4	37.8	43.6	47.9
Nonnegligent manslaughter	17.3	27.7	39.4	46.0	51.5	55.7
Negligent manslaughter	13.2	21.9	35.5	43.7	48.8	53.0
Rape/sexual assault	20.8	30.9	43.7	50.9	56.0	60.1
Robbery	25.8	41.0	58.6	66.9	72.8	77.0
Assault	27.9	42.6	58.9	67.1	72.9	77.1
Other	28.7	43.4	56.6	63.0	66.9	70.4
Property	33.6%	50.3%	66.7%	74.5%	79.1%	82.1%
Burglary	31.0	48.7	65.8	73.9	78.9	81.8
Larceny/motor vehicle theft	39.3	56.2	70.8	77.6	81.6	84.1
Fraud/forgery	27.7	42.2	60.0	68.6	73.2	77.0
Other	33.2	49.5	66.6	75.5	80.9	83.6
Drug	26.9%	42.3%	59.1%	67.9%	73.3%	76.9%
Possession	28.7	44.5	60.7	69.6	75.2	78.3
Trafficking	26.9	41.5	58.0	66.6	71.9	75.4
Other	25.3	41.4	59.3	68.3	73.6	78.1
Public order	25.6%	40.1%	55.6%	64.7%	69.9%	73.6%
Weapons	35.3	49.1	65.1	73.1	76.9	79.5
Driving under the influence	11.9	22.1	37.2	48.0	54.9	59.9
Other ^b	27.8	44.9	60.4	69.2	74.1	77.9

Note: Prisoners were tracked for 5 years following release. Inmates could have been in prison for more than one offense; the most serious one is reported in this table.

See appendix table 9 for standard errors.

The BJS Report indicates Recidivism by Older Prisoners is Problematic

TABLE 14
Recidivism of prisoners released in 30 states in 2005, by age at release, most serious commitment offense, and time from release to first arrest

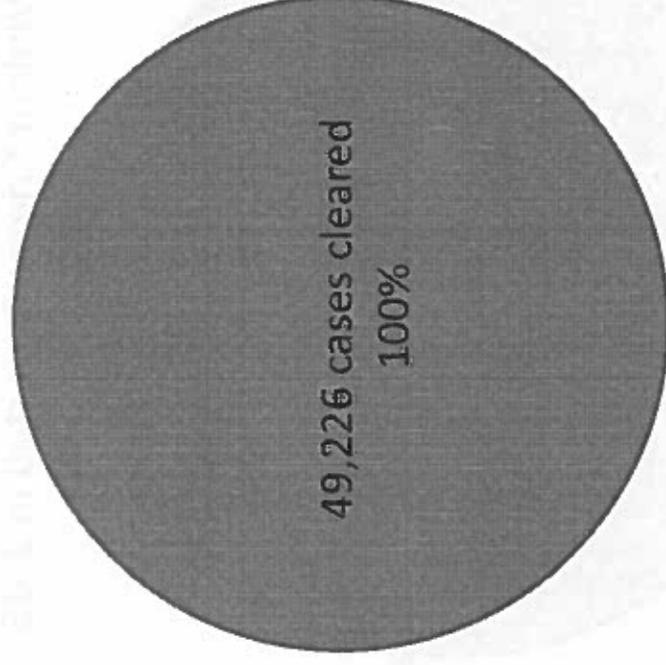
Age at release and most serious commitment offense	Cumulative percent of released prisoners arrested within—					
	6 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
All released prisoners	28.2%	43.4%	59.5%	67.8%	73.0%	76.6%
24 or younger	34.0%	51.3%	68.1%	75.9%	80.7%	84.1%
Violent	30.6	45.6	62.7	71.1	76.2	80.4
Property	37.3	55.1	70.9	78.3	82.9	85.8
Drug	31.6	50.0	69.3	77.4	82.4	85.4
Public order*	38.2	56.2	69.8	76.2	80.8	84.7
25–29	29.0%	45.4%	62.1%	71.1%	76.6%	80.3%
Violent	25.1	39.6	56.5	66.4	72.7	76.7
Property	34.2	51.1	67.3	75.4	80.0	83.5
Drug	27.4	44.3	61.5	70.8	76.6	80.4
Public order*	30.0	48.1	64.3	72.1	77.0	80.7
30–34	28.0%	43.4%	60.0%	68.1%	73.4%	77.0%
Violent	25.1	38.6	54.9	62.4	68.2	72.0
Property	33.8	50.9	68.3	76.0	80.7	83.7
Drug	25.5	41.2	58.4	66.8	72.2	76.1
Public order*	27.5	42.3	56.4	66.0	71.2	75.2
35–39	29.2%	44.4%	61.2%	69.8%	74.7%	78.1%
Violent	26.7	42.1	59.6	66.1	70.6	74.0
Property	35.0	52.8	69.3	77.6	81.9	83.8
Drug	27.8	40.7	56.7	67.0	72.8	77.0
Public order*	24.1	38.0	56.0	64.9	70.3	74.8
40 or older	24.0%	37.3%	52.1%	60.3%	65.5%	69.2%
Violent	20.3	31.5	43.4	50.3	56.0	60.7
Property	29.8	44.9	61.2	69.0	73.8	76.9
Drug	24.6	38.7	54.2	62.5	67.6	71.2
Public order*	17.6	28.8	44.4	55.3	60.6	63.9

Note: Prisoners were tracked for 5 years following release. Inmates could have been in prison for more than one offense; the most serious one is reported in this table. Data on prisoner's age were known for 100% of cases. See appendix table 15 for standard errors.

Recidivism statistics in Michigan:

Limitations in measurement

In 2015, there were 49,226 violent crime cases cleared

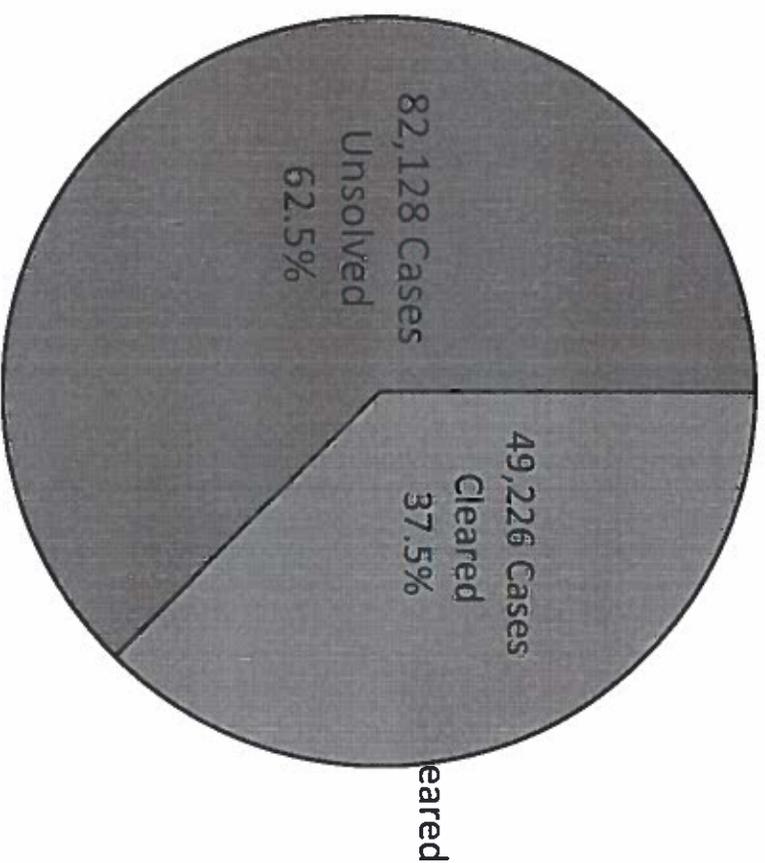


These are the cases where recidivism for violent crimes can be considered.

Source: MSP Crime Data, at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/Crime_At_A_Glance_528343_7.pdf

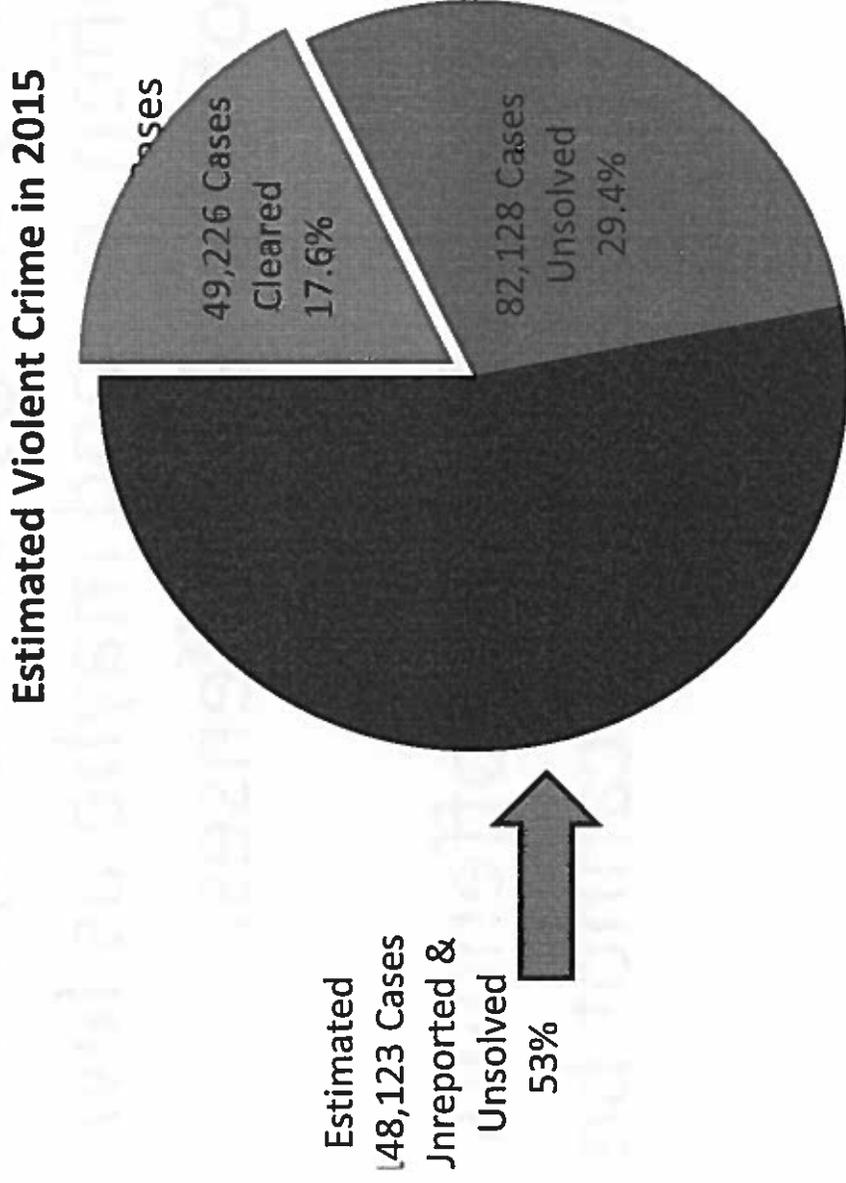
The 49,226 cleared cases were part of 131,354 reported violent crimes

All Violent Crimes Reported in 2015



Source: MSP Crime Data, at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/Crime_At_A_Glance_528343_7.pdf

Federal studies estimate that as few as 47% of violent crimes were reported in 2015. There may have been as many as 279,477 violent crimes committed in Michigan in 2015.



Sources: MSP Crime Data, at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/Crime_At_A_Glance_528343_7.pdf
BJS, "Criminal Victimization, 2015", released September 2014, (updated December 2016):
<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv15.pdf>

Recidivism can be considered or measured only using just over 1/3 of all violent offenses, and maybe as few as 1/6 of all violent offenses.

The large majority of violent offenders and their possible recidivism cannot be known.

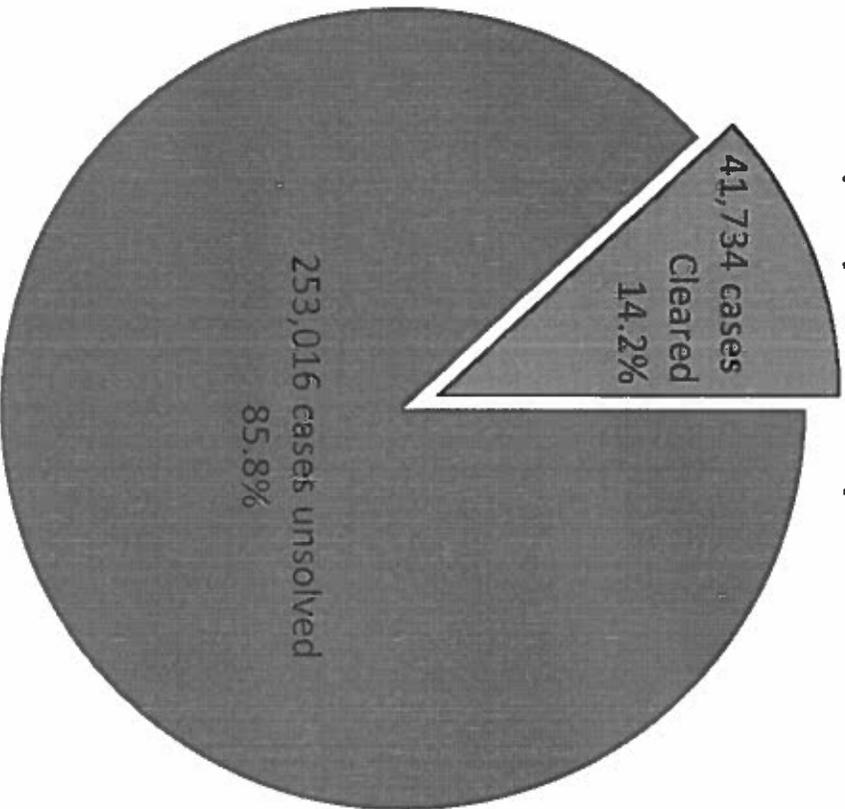
In 2015, there were 41,734 property crimes cleared.



These are the cases where recidivism for property crimes can be considered

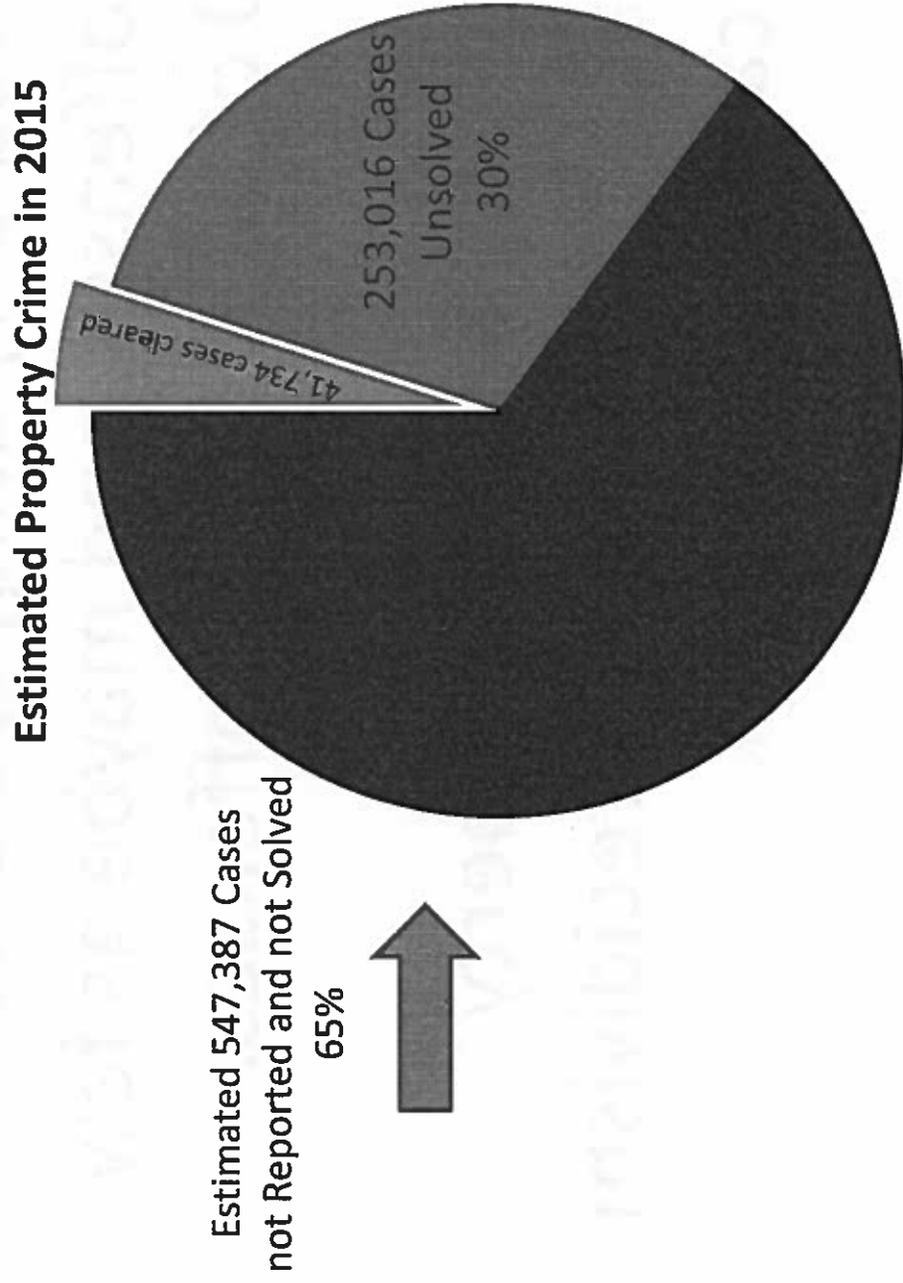
The 41,734 cleared property crime cases were part of 294,747 reported property crimes.

All Property Crimes Reported in 2015



Source: MSP Crime Data, at: http://www.michigan.gov/msp/Crime_At_A_Glance_528343_7.pdf

Federal studies estimate that as few as 35% of property crimes were reported in 2015. There may have been as many as 842,134 property crimes committed in Michigan in 2015.



Sources: MSP Crime Data, at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/Crime_At_A_Glance_528343_7.pdf
BJS, "Criminal Victimization, 2015", released September, 2014 (updated December 2016), :
<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv15.pdf>

Recidivism can be considered or measured only using 1/6 of all property offenses, and maybe as few as 1/20 of all property offenses.

The vast majority of property offenders and their possible recidivism cannot be known.

As an indication of unreported crime, compare CDC findings to the 236,713 forcible rapes reported in Michigan from 1960 to 2013:

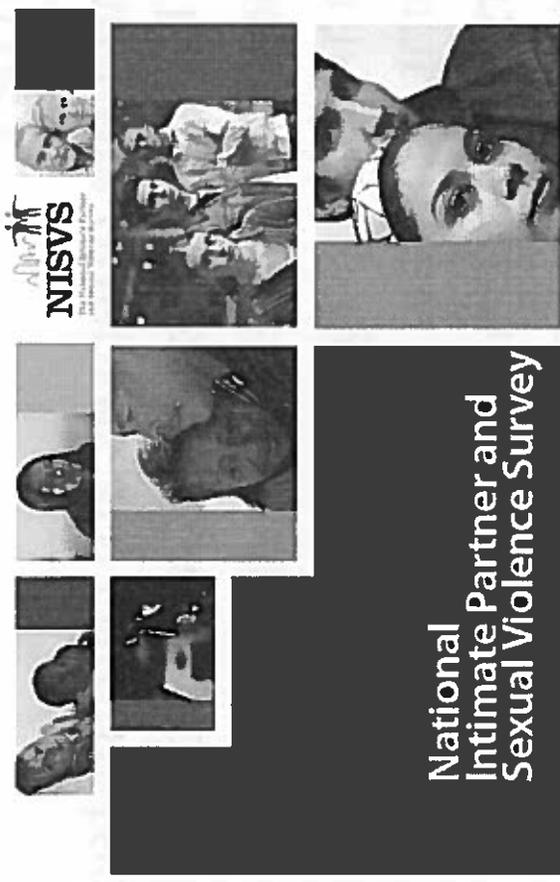


Table 7.1 — continued

State	Weighted %	Rape Estimated Number of Victims ¹
Louisiana	15.9	280,000
Maine	17.3	94,000
Maryland	20.5	466,000
Massachusetts	15.1	406,000
Michigan	25.6	1,005,000

Today – estimated
1,005,000
 lifetime victims



Released November 2011 (Updated November 2014) by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia: http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/NISVS_Report2010-a.pdf

Besides unsolved cases and unreported crime, what else is missing?

Course of conduct: Commonly multiple offenses are committed by a perpetrator over a period of hours, days, months, or even years. The Attorney General prosecutes cases with dozens and even hundreds of victims, while only bringing a few charges. What was reported was a complaint or a few complaints, and the investigation revealed substantially larger numbers of victims. Reporting fails to capture this level of serial recidivism.

Plea Bargaining: The vast majority of multiple victim or multiple charge course of conduct cases are plea bargained to a few charges only, and commonly to lesser charges that do not reflect the actual level of criminality or victimization.

Additionally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that nationally:

“An estimated 24.7% of the released prisoners had a prior arrest in a state other than the one that released them.”

“An estimated 10.9% of released prisoners were arrested in a state other than the one that released them during the 5-year follow-up period.”

Non-Michigan actions should be considered in measuring recidivism.

Source: BJS report, “Recidivism of Prisoners Released in 30 States in 2005: Patterns from 2005 to 2010”, released April 2014 (Updated Tables December , 2016), accessed at: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv15.pdf>



Michigan Sex offenders and recidivism

Wayne County Sexual Assault Kit Task Force FAQ September 2016

Unopened, Untested Rape Kits Found (In 2009):

Approx 11,341

Kits Tested to Date:

Approx 10,000

CODIS eligible DNA Profiles:

Note: Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is the national DNA database.

Per Michigan State Police (MSP) 4512 as of August 25th (Michigan State Police have not provided any numbers since August 25th, 2015)

4,512 kits with usable DNA evidence

CODIS "hits" from Tested Kits:

Per MSP 2616 CODIS Associations through August 25th (including CODIS hits and Case-to-case Associations.)

2,616 CODIS "hits"

Number of Suspected Serial sexual Offenders Identified:

775 Identified as of October 4th, 2016 *

775 serial sexual offenders

Number of States Impacted:

40 (listed below)

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Number of Cases Actively Being Investigated:

263 as of October 4th, 2016.

- 17% are likely serial rapists

Number of Cases Awaiting Investigation:

1152 +

- 58% committed multiple offenses

Longitudinal Research indicates that a small percentage of offenders commit inordinate numbers of crime. No criminal record will capture the extent of criminality perpetrated by this cohort.

The number of offenses (M1 & M2) are two different research methodologies that both include data on offenses committed in Michigan.

This table reflects the results of 27,000 people, followed for 25 years.

Table 2
Number of Police Contacts and Estimated Number of Offenses
Philadelphia Cohort - Through Age 26*

	Number of Offenders	Number of Contacts	Number of Offenses (M1)	Number of Offenses (M2)	Percent of Population	Percent of Offenders	Percent of Contacts	Percent of Offenses (M1)	Percent of Offenses (M2)
One or more contacts	6157	3.2	41.1	47.8	23%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2+ contacts	3330	5.1	65.5	75.3	12%	54%	86%	86%	85%
3+ contacts	2208	6.7	85.4	97.2	8%	36%	75%	75%	73%
4+ contacts	1612	8.1	103.2	116.7	6%	26%	66%	66%	64%
5+ contacts	1240	9.3	119.0	133.6	5%	20%	59%	50%	56%
6+ contacts	966	10.5	134.4	150.4	4%	16%	51%	51%	49%
10+ contacts	425	14.7	184.3	204.6	2%	7%	32%	32%	30%
15+ contacts	155	20.2	233.2	253.3	1%	3%	16%	16%	13%
95%	308	11	156.4	186.1	1%	5%	17%	17%	19%
99%	62	20	304.0	369.0	0.2%	1%	6%	6%	8%

* Age 26 cohort only measured for six months on average. See text.

“New Evidence on the Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth”, Cohen and Piquero, December 2007, found at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/225637886_New_Evidence_on_the_Monetary_Value_of_Saving_a_High_Risk_Youth

In summary, current Michigan data on recidivism does not include:

- Unsolved Crime
- Unreported Crime
- Course of Conduct (disregarded crime)
- Reductions via plea bargaining (under-stated crime)
- Arrests/convictions in other states
- Lifestyle Criminality
- Absconders and their actions

Victims and communities live with these effects, and it markedly affects quality of life, especially in urban areas and for victims of sexual assault.

The peer-reviewed research is clear: real life recidivism is substantially higher and more widespread than simple reporting of convictions.